

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 336

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION recognizing the players, trainers, and coaches of the Middle Tennessee State University men's basketball team upon a stellar 2012-2013 season.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those teams which, through their commitment to the pursuit of excellence both on and off the court, have brought honor to themselves, their schools, their communities, and this State; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Blue Raiders men's basketball team is one such team which has attained a hitherto unseen level of accomplishment and success during this most recent season; and

WHEREAS, in the 2012-2013 season, head coach Kermit Davis and the Blue Raiders finished the season with twenty-eight wins, nineteen conference wins, and eleven road wins, establishing new program records in all three categories. The Blue Raiders also ran off a seventeen-game win streak, which was the longest such streak in the country at the time, and captured the 2013 regular season Sun Belt Conference title, a title the Blue Raiders also won in 2010 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, this most recent season also saw the Blue Raiders ranked in the top twenty-five nationally for its recruiting class, the sixth time the team has been so ranked during Coach Davis' tenure; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders finished the season with a perfect home record of sixteen wins to zero losses, one of only three teams to do so, and the team gained votes in the *USA Today* Coaches Poll for eight straight weeks, rising as high as twenty-sixth in the national rankings; and

WHEREAS, several Blue Raiders earned individual honors this season, including Bruce Massey, who was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and selected an All-Sun Belt player; Marcos Knight, who was chosen an All-Sun Belt player and named to the NABC All-District First Team for the second time, becoming MTSU's first player to be honored by the organization twice; and Raymond Clinton, who was chosen an All-Sun Belt player; and

WHEREAS, player J.T. Sulton also became the thirtieth Blue Raider to join the thousand-point club and finished his collegiate career with a total of 1,019 points scored, which places him twenty-eighth on the list of all-time highest-scoring Blue Raiders. In addition, he became only the twelfth Blue Raider to score at least one thousand points and collect at least six hundred rebounds during his career; and

WHEREAS, head coach Kermit Davis was recognized as the Sun Belt Coach of the Year and the NABC District 24 Coach of the year, winning each of the awards for the second consecutive year, and during the 2012-2013 season, he became the winningest coach in Sun Belt history when he notched his 113th Sun Belt victory. He finished the season with a career total of 117 Sun Belt wins; and

WHEREAS, perhaps most impressively, the Blue Raiders players attended the Big Dance, marking the first time MTSU appeared in the NCAA Tournament in twenty-four years. This marked the first time a Sun Belt team has received an at-large bid to the tournament since 2008 and only the second time since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the MTSU Blue Raiders basketball program has thrilled and inspired us throughout this most recent season, and it is fitting that this body recognizes the team's dedication to success, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to the pursuit of excellence, both in basketball and in life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend head coach Kermit Davis and the players, trainers, and assistant coaches of the MTSU Blue Raiders basketball program on the

team's impressive accomplishments during the 2012-2013 season and extend our best wishes for their continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.